

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated oligoribonucleotide consisting of two separate non-linked complementary oligoribonucleotide strands (dsRNA),
wherein the dsRNA is ~~15 to~~ 21 nucleotides in length,
wherein the dsRNA does not comprise a full length RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene,
wherein one strand of the dsRNA is complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of said mammalian target gene,
and wherein the ~~oligoribonucleotide~~ dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said mammalian target gene.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~oligoribonucleotide~~ dsRNA of claim 4, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~oligoribonucleotide~~ dsRNA of claim 4, wherein said ~~oligoribonucleotide~~ dsRNA is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~oligoribonucleotide~~ dsRNA of claim 4, wherein said one strand of said dsRNA is fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~oligonucleotide~~ dsRNA of claim 4 or 8, wherein said two separate complementary strands are fully complementary to each other.

10-15. (Canceled)